

REMARKS

In the present amendment, Applicants have cancelled the non-elected claims 1,2, 11-15, 24-26 and 28 and withdrawn Claims 16-17 and 27 from consideration. No new matter has been added by the amendment. Entry is believed to be proper and respectfully requested.

Upon the entry of the present amendment, Claims 18-23 are pending. No additional claims fee is believed due.

Election

Applicants hereby confirm the election of Group III, claims 18-23. Accordingly, claims 1, 2, 11-15, 24-26 and 28 are cancelled and Claims 16-17 and 27 are withdrawn from consideration.

Rejection Under 35 USC §103

The Examiner rejects claims 18-23 under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over US 5,658,651 to Smith et al. (hereinafter "Smith"). The Examiner states that Smith teaches a fabric treatment and softener system for in-dryer use. The system comprises a textile sheet impregnated with a fabric treatment formulation, which comprises a liquid vehicle, including water, ethylene glycol, non-ionic surfactants and additional fabric treatment agents, such as shrinkage controller. The Examiner concludes that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to formulate a fabric treatment composition comprising ethylene glycol as solvent for use in the composition of Smith. The Examiner acknowledges that Smith does not specifically teach ethylene glycol as a shrinkage controller, but a composition containing ethylene glycol will inherently exhibit this property.

First, Applicants respectfully point out that Smith merely mentioned shrinkage controller as one of many fabric treatment agents that may be added to its composition. Smith does not provide an enabling teaching as to what material can be used as a shrinkage controller.

Second, Applicants respectfully point out that claim limitations must be viewed as a whole. Smith does not teach or suggest the presently claimed specific amounts of shrinkage reducing agent in combination with the specific amount of cleaning/refreshment composition. Thus, Smith does not render the presently claimed combination obvious.

Based on the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

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CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that the above is a complete response to the Office Action and the rejection has been overcome. Reconsideration of the claims in light of the Remarks provided, withdrawal of the rejection, and allowance of Claims 18-23 are respectfully requested. Applicants also request that rejoinder of Claims 16-17 and 27, with proper amendment, be permitted.

In the event that issues remain prior to allowance of the noted claims, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' undersigned attorney to discuss any remaining issues.

Respectfully Submitted,

by Caroline Wei Berk

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